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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

**Bauman to ask LCDC for \$3.5M**

Posted: Tuesday, Oct 07, 2008 - 11:23:18 pm PDT

By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

Funding would help remodel Sorensen School

COEUR d'ALENE -- At community forums last summer, Hazel Bauman told patrons that School District 271 would seek ways to pay for needed remodeling or building in the district without raising property taxes.

The school district superintendent is keeping her word.

Bauman reported to trustees at Monday's board meeting that she will ask the Lake City Development Corp., the city's urban renewal agency, to consider funding a \$3.5 million remodel of Sorensen Magnet School of the Arts and Humanities.

"That's the best estimate of what it will cost to bring the school up to speed," Bauman told The Press.

The Ninth Street school became eligible for urban renewal funding in August when the City Council agreed to allow LCDC to extend the boundaries of one of its urban renewal districts, the Lake District, to include Sorensen.

The \$3.5 million cost is supported by itemized estimates by DEI Electrical Consultants and Northwestern Mechanical Engineering. It includes \$486,000, up from a \$421,000 estimate presented by the district to LCDC in 2007, to bring the school into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Bauman knows LCDC might not agree to fully fund the project, but since the district is already in discussion with the agency about funding for Sorensen's ADA compliance, she thought it couldn't hurt to ask.

"It's tax money that's already been collected and no school plant facilities levy would be needed to do the work," Bauman said.

LCDC Director Tony Berns could not say what the agency will do with the request, but said he suggested the district outline the total cost to meet Sorensen's facilities needs and bring it to the agency's board so they can "see where the organization might step in and help."

"We have the latitude to invest capital funds in these buildings," Berns said.

He did not know if other urban renewal agencies in Idaho are funding facilities needs for public schools.

LCDC and the district have been exploring ways the agency might assist the district at Sorensen since 2005.

Built in 1957, the school has no on-site parking, is not adequately handicapped accessible and sits on a tiny two-acre site.

Declining enrollment nearly forced the district to shutter the downtown neighborhood school in 2007.

Community outcries and a plan to turn Sorensen into the district's first magnet school, saved it from the chopping block before the start of the 2007-08 school year.

A magnet school is one that offers unique programming -- like Sorensen's fine arts curriculum -- and is available to students throughout the district, not just those living within the school's sending zone.

One of the caveats for keeping the school open was that enrollment would be brought up past 300 and that the school be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Last year, enrollment swelled past 300.

Early on, LCDC had expressed interest in paying for the ADA compliance work but the agency was legally prohibited until the school was made part of the urban renewal district it sat adjacent to.

"We're going to re-engage in conversations with the district about how we might help," Berns said.

The LCDC Board of Commissioners meets the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. The public is invited to attend.

#### FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

**No new education news stories posted online today.**

#### FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

#### **Kiwis loving life at the UI**

Exchange students develop deep appreciation for Idaho  
By Mark Williams, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Tuesday, October 07, 2008

Geoff Crimmins/Daily News

Jessica Lewis and Charlotte White are not the type to miss out on a good time.

Whether it's rafting the Clearwater River one weekend or preparing to surf the Oregon coast the next, the 19-year-old New Zealand natives are taking full advantage of everything the Northwest has to offer.

"We love it here. It's just been so great," White said. "We really had no idea where Idaho was before we came here, but there's just so much to do."

"College in America is pretty insane," added Lewis. "I think college in America is a lot like high school in New Zealand. It's a lot of fun and they organize things for you to do. At our university (in New Zealand) you just kind of go and study."

The pair came to Moscow in January on an exchange from Nelson University, located in the city of Christchurch on the South Island of New Zealand. They will head home at the end of the fall semester.

Although they'll only be here for a year, Lewis and White have taken advantage of more opportunities through the university's outdoor and recreation programs than some area residents do in a lifetime.

"I'm going to miss the rec program," Lewis said. "The kids that go to school here are so lucky that they can go and do things like yoga for college credit. Any given time we could be off mountain biking, skiing or rafting."

Along with general adventuring, Lewis and White have picked up another prominent habit in their time spent stateside: skateboarding. They only had limited knowledge of how to stand up on a board prior to arriving at the UI, but now their boards serve as a source of recreation as well as their primary mode of transportation.

"We saw some people around campus doing and it looked pretty sweet," Lewis said. "It's been good because we don't have cars or bikes, so now when we go to Wal-Mart we just skate there."

The two have gotten fairly comfortable traveling around town on their boards, but there is still some terrain to be more carefully navigated, especially for White.

"We were going down a hill and the first day I did it I thought, 'Oh, yeah, I'll go really fast,' " she said. "I tried to stop but the board ended up going in the bushes and a little girl had to go get it for me. It was really embarrassing. I had to go back at night and practice it again."

"The hardest part when you're starting is learning how to stop. You've got to learn how to put your foot down," Lewis added. "All my shoes have really big holes in them now."

Rooming together in the UI's Living and Learning Center, the two also have embraced the more conventional aspects of college life. Foremost is taking in the experience of tailgating and American football - or at least trying to.

"We love tailgating, but we don't really understand the game completely," Lewis said. "All we know is that we love it when everyone gets to say 'Vandalllll firssstttt doooooowwnnnnn!' "

Whether they return to New Zealand with an understanding football ultimately is irrelevant. Lewis and White said their time here has not only given them an appreciation for Idaho, but a new outlook on life.

"It's been an eye-opener. It's changed my perspective on what's important," Lewis said. "We're going to go back and life's going to go back to normal, and I'm going to be in debt, and I'm just going to be like, 'I want to go back to Idaho.' "

### **ASUI wants to increase civic participation**

ASUI leaders seek annual or biannual meetings with Moscow City Council  
By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Tuesday, October 07, 2008

Associated Students of the University of Idaho Senator Ian Harpole sometimes is embarrassed by the lack of political activity on his campus.

Harpole said for the first time students seem ready to get involved.

"People seem ready to participate in the actual voting process. (That's) a big change for the University of Idaho, which is one of the least politically active campuses in the nation," he said.

That's why Harpole and fellow ASUI senators created a "Civic Engagement Task Force."

In addition to sponsoring voter-registration drives, one of the projects for the task force is to create a collaboration between ASUI and the Moscow City Council akin to the partnership between the Associated Students of Washington State University and the Pullman City Council.

Pullman City Councilman Barney Waldrop said the twice-yearly meetings the council has with ASWSU are two of the best meetings of the year. The groups meet once at City Hall and once on campus.

"It's an opportunity to exchange information," he said.

Waldrop said a lot of productive ideas have come out of the collaboration, such as a solution to the problem of crossing dangerous streets on Pullman's College Hill.

He thinks Moscow and the UI could benefit from a joint effort addressing the crosswalk at West Pullman Road and Peterson Drive. Harpole agreed.

"I know there are a lot of students who are really worried about crossing Third Street," Harpole said. "That's an example of something that we could maybe work together with the city on because it really affects us both."

Moscow City Councilman Dan Carscallen said it's always beneficial to hear from students, who make up a third of the city's population.

He also cited the West Pullman Road crosswalk as an issue that would benefit from City Council and ASUI cooperation.

Carscallen said the meetings between the Pullman City Council and WSU could be used as a model for meetings between the Moscow City Council and ASUI.

"We're also looking at adding student representation to some of our committees," Carscallen said.

The City Council is considering an ordinance that would add a post-secondary student, a high school student and a resident of Latah County who doesn't live within city limits to various city commissions.

The ordinance was presented to the council by Mayor Nancy Chaney and City Attorney Randy Fife, with the goal of bringing a broader perspective to various commissions and the City Council. It was passed in first reading and will be discussed again at future council meetings.

Harpole also would like to increase civic participation among students to increase their visibility in Moscow.

"Another thing would be just to help ASUI and students be seen as more of a permanent fixture than just a seasonal thing," Harpole said.

ASUI Senator Loren Doman also is involved with the civic engagement task force. He's been working on campus voter-registration efforts and educating students about candidates.

Doman said the voter-registration efforts have been successful, and he estimates that several hundred students have registered with ASUI.

Harpole said he thinks the fact that the ASUI is not affiliated with a political party helps encourage people to register and seek information.

"We don't have an agenda," he said.

Voter education will continue to be the primary goal of the task force until Election Day, when Harpole will return his focus to collaboration with the City Council.

Doman said there is much to be gained from collaboration with the City Council, and that the ASUI eventually should seek a non-voting seat on the council.

"Once the election's over we're probably going to be focusing a lot more on the council, possibly getting a non-voting delegate to go to the council meetings," he said.

## **MOSCOW: UI students offered depression screening**

Staff report

Posted on: Tuesday, October 07, 2008

Thursday is National Depression Screening Day. University of Idaho students can complete free depression screening questionnaires from 11:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The purpose of National Depression Screening Day is to raise public awareness of mood and anxiety concerns that often go undetected.

The screening will be in the Upper Canvas Area of the Commons on the UI campus. Counseling and Testing Center staff members will be on site.

## **FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)**

### **UI to face single retiree lawsuit**

Former employees suing university will act as a group rather than in 268 separate cases

By Joel Mills

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

MOSCOW - A lawsuit University of Idaho retirees filed against their former employer in July should get rolling again on Friday, according to their attorney.

That's when 2nd District Judge John R. Stegner will consider certifying two classes of retirees who allege the UI reneged on early retirement benefits, Moscow attorney Ron Landeck said Tuesday.

"If you don't do that, then you've just got individuals who would essentially have rights to bring an action on their own behalf," Landeck said. "It allows every member to be represented in this lawsuit."

Landeck said he could have compelled the university to file its formal response to the lawsuit within the 20 days required by law. But he said UI attorney Bruce Rubin has been cooperating to help identify the members of the classes and get them certified, so he hasn't done so.

Rubin didn't immediately return a call to his Portland office on Tuesday. But in previous conversations with the Lewiston Tribune, he has confirmed the opposing sides are working together on certain aspects to expedite the case.

Landeck said certification is beneficial to the university because it can deal with all 268 affected retirees at the same time, instead of facing separate lawsuits by individuals.

The retirees claim the university "unilaterally" changed the benefits of employees who retired early under two programs: the Early Retirement Incentive Program in 1999, and the Voluntary Separation and Retirement Opportunities Program in 2002.

A task force of university officials and retirees negotiated the benefit changes for more than a year, but Landeck said none of the retirees ever legally agreed to have their contracts altered.

"When two people sign a contract, and one person decides they're going to change the terms of that contract, that's what I consider to be unilateral," he said.

The early retirement programs were cost-cutting measures that thinned the ranks of older, higher-paid faculty members in tight budget years. But as insurance and health care costs increased in the years after the programs were implemented, the UI sought to reduce its financial liability.

According to the lawsuit, the benefits changes required retirees to choose from two medical plans that either imposed a monthly premium or reduced medical benefits. The changes also reduced the value of UI-funded life insurance, according to the suit.

A claim for damages filed with the Idaho Secretary of State's office in December said retirees are now paying \$240 per year for medical insurance, a total of \$64,000. They are also paying for lost life insurance, the claim said, which is an unspecified portion of the \$1.3 million the university saved by changing those benefits.

No punitive damages are sought in the lawsuit, but the retirees are asking that their attorney fees be reimbursed.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

**No new education news stories posted online today.**



## FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

### **New Idaho teacher evaluation standards up for public review**

The plan sets guidelines in four areas and doesn't tie evaluations to teacher pay.

Idaho State Department of Education

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

GIVE YOUR OPINION

In the Valley

Nampa: 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, location to be determined.

Meridian: 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, Meridian School District office, Lochsa Room, 1303 E. Central Drive.

BY SANDRA FORESTER - sforester@idahostatesman.com

Edition Date: 10/08/08

Educators, parents and the public can comment this month on state schools Superintendent Tom Luna's new idea for statewide teacher evaluation standards.

State law requires teacher evaluations but gives no guidelines, Luna says. As a result, some districts have vigorous processes while others use token forms.

Teachers have said they are frustrated with random, subjective evaluations, Luna said, and his goal is to present a fair, objective and transparent process

"This is about improving the craft of teaching," Luna said. "There's a number (of districts) that, frankly, need to do more."

The evaluations would not be tied to teacher pay.

The proposed minimum standards were recommended by a task force of educators, parents, business people and lawmakers and were based on a structure created by Charlotte Danielson, a national expert on teacher quality and evaluation.

They set guidelines in four areas: planning and preparation; learning environment; instruction and use of assessment; and professional responsibilities.

If the standards are approved by the Legislature, each Idaho school district and charter school would create its own evaluation tool. Several school districts already have evaluation processes in place that meet these standards, officials said.

"It's going to give teachers the security to know that they're being evaluated on just the facts," said Mikki Nuckols, a teacher at Rocky Mountain Middle School in Idaho Falls and task force member. "It's a fair process."

Teachers will know that they face the same expectations whether they are teaching in Idaho Falls or Caldwell, she said.

Sherri Wood, president of the Idaho Education Association, said training is a vital aspect to ensure that administrators are applying the standards with equal understanding, even if each district's evaluation tool looks a little different.

"There has to be training so that they know what good teaching is," Wood said. "It's very difficult to standardize a system when you have people involved. Hopefully, this will help enhance what's out there."

Staff from the State Department of Education and task force members will present the recommendations at public meetings statewide throughout October. The task force will meet in November to finalize a proposal to give the Legislature in January.

### **Meridian students participate in International Walk to School Day**

Statesman staff - Idaho Statesman

Edition Date: 10/08/08

Meridian's sidewalks will be filled with kids as city leaders, child safety advocates and local businesses mark International Walk to School Day on Wednesday.

Students from Meridian Elementary School planned to meet at Generation's Plaza in Downtown Meridian on Wednesday morning, and with the help of city and school leaders, representatives from St. Luke's Boise/Meridian, and Safe Kids Treasure Valley and FedEx employees, walk several blocks to Meridian Elementary at 1035 NW 1st St.

The school had planned activities and goodies for the children, including a proclamation read by Meridian Mayor Tammy De Weerd supporting Walk to School Day and emphasizing the need to stress pedestrian safety to children.

"We hope this will be fun for the children as well as provide them the opportunity to learn about safe walking behaviors," said Alissa Lean, Safe Kids Treasure Valley coordinator. "Pedestrian safety is a concern in our community and our hope is that we can teach children to be safer pedestrians in a way they will remember for years to come."

### **Idaho teacher task force to hold meetings on minimum evaluation standards**

Read more stories about education online

Statesman staff - Idaho Statesman

Edition Date: 10/07/08

The Idaho Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force will host regional meetings across the state throughout October to present its initial recommendations for implementing statewide minimum standards on how teachers are evaluated.

With support from the Idaho Legislature and Gov. Butch Otter, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna created the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force in May 2008 to develop statewide minimum standards that will ensure teacher evaluations across the state are conducted through a fair, objective, reliable, valid and transparent process.

The task force includes representatives from all major stakeholder groups in education, including teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members, parents, business representatives and legislators. "I am proud of the task force's diligent work to develop standards that will help improve the craft of teaching across the state by providing Idaho teachers with a fair and consistent evaluation process," Luna said. "The members of this task force have worked tirelessly over the past five months to create this plan, and I encourage Idaho teachers, school administrators, parents and other citizens to join us for these regional public meetings where they can hear the proposal and provide feedback."

The task force's initial recommendations are based on the framework created by Charlotte Danielson, a nationally renowned expert in teacher quality and evaluation.

Under these proposed minimum standards, teachers across the state would be evaluated based on four areas, referred to as domains:

- Planning and Preparation
- Learning Environment
- Instruction and Use of Assessment
- Professional Responsibilities

If these minimum standards are approved, each Idaho school district and charter school will have the flexibility to create its own evaluation tool that meets the unique needs of that district while still being aligned to these statewide standards. Several school districts already have quality evaluation processes in place to meet these standards. "The fair evaluation of teachers is fundamental to their growth and effectiveness in the classroom. I am very pleased with the process this task force has taken to face this issue and develop a plan, which will set standards while still allowing local districts flexibility to design their own tool," said Sen. John Goedde, chairman of the Senate Education Committee and a member of the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force. "Key to this process is funding professional development for administrators tasked with conducting evaluations and for teachers to know their expectations. I look forward to taking public input on these standards." Staff from the State Department of Education and task force members will present these initial recommendations at the public meetings scheduled throughout October.

Teachers, parents, school administrators and the general public are encouraged to attend these meetings, ask questions and give feedback on how the plan could be improved.

The Task Force will meet again in November to take the public comments into consideration before finalizing a proposal to submit to the Idaho Legislature in January 2009.

To read the entire proposal or to submit comments online, go to <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>.

Schedule of public meetings for the Teacher Performance Evaluation: October 8: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Sandpoint High School auditorium, 410 S. Division Street, Sandpoint. October 9: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Lewis-Clark State College TCC Library, Lewis-Clark State College campus, Lewiston. October 15: 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Nampa, location to be determined. October 16: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Coeur d'Alene School District, Midtown Center Board Room, off 4th Street near Linden. October 20: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Meridian School District Office, Lochsa Room, 1303 E. Central Drive, Meridian. October 22: 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Idaho Falls, location to be determined. October 23: 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Pocatello, location to be determined. October 28: 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Twin Falls, location to be determined. Check <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/meeting.htm> to learn more about the public meeting in your community.

#### FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

##### **State drafts standards for teacher evaluations**

BOISE, Idaho - The state Department of Education has drafted a list of standards for grading teacher performance in Idaho.

The agency will now seek public input on those recommendations before a final draft goes to state lawmakers next year.

Idaho now requires school districts and charter schools to evaluate teachers yearly, but the process varies among Idaho schools and districts.

The Department of Education created a task force earlier this year, with \$50,000 from state lawmakers, to develop standards for a statewide teaching evaluation.

A service of the Associated Press(AP)

## FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **Brooke's soup-er day**

Chubbuck girl wins SEICAA's drawing contest

BY YANN RANAIVO

yranaiwo@journalnet.com

CHUBBUCK — Brooke Johnson sat in her tiny desk Tuesday morning with a textbook open, awaiting the recess bell, when her parents walked into the classroom holding foil balloons.

"Surprise!" they shouted.

Then the officials with the Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency entered the Chubbuck Elementary School third-grade classroom and broke the good news.

The 8-year-old had been named SEICAA's 2008 Stone Soup Child of the Year. Stone Soup is a major fundraiser for SEICAA to help the agency in its mission to give low-income families a helping hand.

To win the honor, Brooke drew her interpretation late last month of the Stone Soup story.

Stone Soup is a tale about travelers who teach an entire village about the values of cooperation and un-selfishness by using a dish filled with water and a stone.

The story tells how the travelers' dish drew curiosity from villagers who all gradually poured bits of seasoning into the so-called stone soup. Once the dish was fully seasoned, the entire village was able to enjoy the stone soup.

Brooke expressed her shy gratitude in few words as she drew applause from her classmates.

Later, Brooke sat with her parents as she explained the Stone Soup drawing she made.

"Our teacher brought in some papers (about the Stone Soup drawing contest) and told us that we could help out," Brooke said.

The winning sketch depicted a table occupied with a bowl of chicken noodle soup, a rock, an onion, a cooking pot and a lemonade pitcher. The girl colored her drawings in bright yellow, pink, green and turquoise.

"I wasn't planning on winning," she said.

Now, Brooke can expect to take part in the Stone Soup play that will be hosted at Idaho State University's Ballroom on Oct. 20 during SEICAA's annual Stone Soup fundraising meal.

Although Brooke won the overall Stone Soup contest, students from each of the remaining District 25 elementary schools were given awards for entering the top drawings for their schools and will also get to participate in the Stone Soup play.

### **District 25 puts teachers in new 'learning communities'**

Groups help schools address shortcomings

BY CASEY SANTEE

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POCATELLO — District 25's Professional Learning Communities program is in its early stages, but officials are optimistic about the possibilities.

S c h o o l District 25 teachers began meeting this year to ensure they are on the same page when it comes to student achievement.

Each school has its own community made up of its teachers, who gather twice monthly in their particular areas of expertise — math teachers with their colleagues, English teachers with theirs — or by grade level. That decision is up to the particular community.

The idea is to collectively help students and address past shortfalls on state achievement tests tied to the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

“It’s a bit like building an airplane while you’re flying it, but the research is pretty clear,” said Chuck Wegner, School District 25 director of curriculum. “This is one of the most promising strategies in education today to improve student achievement.”

Wegner said the program focuses on four key questions: What do we expect students to know and be able to do; how well do they need to know it; what are we going to do with students who don’t get essential learning; and what do we do with students who do get it?

Wegner said as far as the communities go, the final two questions are paramount because students’ learning abilities vary between grades and within classrooms.

To make time for the bimonthly meetings, students are released early every other Monday.

Then, once a month, a leadership committee from each school gets together and discusses progress.

The connection to the district level occurs during administrative meetings, which principals from the various schools attend on a monthly basis.

The administrators, in turn, take the ideas presented at those meetings and bring them back to their respective schools to share with teachers.

Wegner said the first two guiding questions were addressed by aligning classroom curriculum district wide, which was done in August.

## FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **Doubling up**

Number of students earning college credits rising

By NICK DRAPER [ndraper@postregister.com](mailto:ndraper@postregister.com)

Hillcrest High School sophomore Lynda Bradley is one of many students in eastern Idaho earning college and high school credits in dual-enrollment classes. Bradley is taking Doug Anderson's honors biology class at Hillcrest for Idaho State University credits. - Robert Bower / [rbower@postregister .com](mailto:rbower@postregister.com)

You wouldn't know it by observing Lynda Bradley in her honors biology class, but she's much more than your typical Hillcrest High School student.

While participating in a verbal exercise with classmates, she's both a high school sophomore and a part-time college student.

And she's by no means rare.

Bradley is just one of the hundreds of students across eastern Idaho taking dual-enrollment courses, in which students earn credit for high school and college.

In all, 469 students at eight area high schools are taking dual-enrollment courses this fall. Nearly a quarter of those students are taking the courses at four high schools -- Madison, North Fremont, Shelley and Teton -- that are offering them for the first time.

That's up significantly from 2004, when only 123 students took dual-credit courses, said Susan Morris, Idaho State University's early college program coordinator at University Place in Idaho Falls.

Dual-enrollment courses, most of which are offered through ISU, are taught by high school teachers with a master's degree in their field and usually correspond to the 101 classes that incoming college freshmen take.

After completing the class, a student's grade is placed on an official college transcript, meaning the student won't have to retake the class after graduating from high school.

That's the main reason Bradley decided to enroll in a college-level course as a high school sophomore.

"I can get it done and get it out of the way," she said.

Out of the 33 students enrolled in Doug Anderson's honors biology class, 23 are taking it for dual credit.

"I can get a jump-start on college," sophomore Brady Miner said.

Morris said the institution wants to help college-bound students get general-education courses behind them. It also wants to give an opportunity to those who might not consider themselves college material.

"If students are able to do college-level work while they're still in high school, it often gives them enough self-confidence ... to go on for a degree," she said. "It's also a lot cheaper. If you look at that per credit, that's a remarkable bargain."

She's not kidding.

Dual-credit classes through ISU cost \$65 per credit. Because most classes are worth three credits, students pay \$195 plus a book fee.

That pales in comparison to the \$236-per-credit fee students would have to pay while attending ISU.

But although more dual-credit classes are being offered than ever before, some parents are concerned about the cost, said Cami Smith, program director for Idaho Falls School District 91's Education Foundation.

"It can hurt a family," Smith said of families paying dual-credit fees on top of regular registration and athletic fees.

That's why Smith helped set up the Greater Idaho Falls Education Coalition, a group that is trying to raise money for dual-credit scholarships for high school students.

"Awareness needs to be raised at what people can do and what parents can do to get their kids more college-bound," Smith said.

The group's fundraiser is a luncheon Oct. 29 at the Shilo Inn. A similar event held in Pocatello last year raised about \$12,000, and Smith said she'd like to at least match that number.

With four new schools offering dual-enrollment classes this fall, there's no doubt that a student's chance to earn college credits will increase in the years to come, said Sharon Oliver, who teaches a calculus dual-enrollment course at Idaho Falls High School.

"There's going to be a large number of classes offered for dual enrollment (in the future), and I think it's a wonderful thing," she said.

That's good news for Bradley, who has another 2 1/2 years of high school remaining.

She just might enter college as a sophomore, not a freshman.

Reporter Nick Draper can be reached at 542-6742.

Want to help?

The Greater Idaho Falls Education Coalition is hosting a fundraiser Oct. 29 to raise money for scholarships for students taking dual-enrollment classes. It'll be from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Shilo Inn. Lunch costs \$12.95.

There will also be an evening program at Skyline High School geared toward college preparation.

**The State Department of Education has drafted a list of standards for grading teacher performance in Idaho.**

BOISE (AP) --



The agency will now seek public input on those recommendations before a final draft goes to state lawmakers next year.

Idaho now requires school districts and charter schools to evaluate teachers yearly, but the process varies among Idaho schools and districts.